

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 SCCT-02

TRSE-00 IO-14 SY-04 USSS-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 FAA-00

CAB-09 JUSE-00 COME-00 AID-20 SCA-01 OMB-01 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /158 W

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O 031130Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3252

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2615

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS GR

SUBJ: TERRORISM: POSSIBLE IMMINENT DEPORTATION

ARAB TERRORISTS

1. ALL GREEK LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS MAY 3 SUGGEST IMMINENT DEPORTATION OF TWO BSO TERRORISTS WHO PREVIOUSLY SENTENCED TO DEATH BY GREEK COURTS FOR MURDERS COMMITTED DURING TERRORIST ATTACK ATHENS AIRPORT AUGUST 5, 1973. WITHIN PAST WEEK (ATHENS 2438) GOG COUNCIL OF PARDONS COMMUTED DEATH SENTENCES TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY PRESIDENT, THUS OPENING WAY TO POSSIBLE DEPORTATION. WHILE PRESS SPECULATES DEPORTATION MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT TODAY (MAY 3) VIA "AN ARAB FLAG" AIRCRAFT DEPARTING 4 P.M. LOCAL TIME FOR LIBYA, USIS OFFICER HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD SELECTED FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IT MORE LIKELY THAT DEPORTATION WOULD BE AFFECTED "NOT TODAY, BUT WITHIN A FEW DAYS".

2. I BELIEVE THE USG SHOULD ISSUE A STRONG STATEMENT PROTESTING THIS DEPORTATION WHEN AND IF IT OCCURS.

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IDEALLY, I FEEL DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESMAN SHOULD ISSUE

STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON. STATEMENT FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY
DEPLORES THE RECENT RELEASE AND DEPORTATION FROM GREECE
OF THE TWO CONVICTED BLACK SEPTEMBER ORGANIZATION (BSO)
TERRORISTS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF
FOUR AMERICAN CITIZENS AND THE WOUNDING OF MANY OTHERS
DURING THEIR COWARDLY ATTACK ON INNOCENT PEOPLE
AUGUST 5, 1973 AT THE ATHENS AIRPORT. THESE TERRORISTS
WERE COMMON CRIMINALS WHO COMMITTED ACTS OF SENSELESS
VIOLENCE WHICH ARE REGARDED WITH REPUGNANCE BY
CIVILIZED NATIONS. NOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN RELEASED,
THE RULE OF LAW WHICH ALL NATIONS MUST STRIVE TO
UPHOLD IS APPRECIABLY UNDERMINED.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXPECTS OTHER
GOVERNMENTS IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS,
POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS
TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY. IN PARTICULAR,
IT EXPECTS GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE SUCH MEASURES AS MAY BE
NECESSARY TO PROTECT INNOCENT PERSONS, INCLUDING U.S.
CITIZENS FOR UNCONSCIONABLE ACTS OF VIOLENCE IF IT IS
WITHIN THEIR POWER TO DO SO. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
CONSIDERS THAT THE RELEASE OF CONVICTED PERPETRATORS
OF SUCH ACTS OF VIOLENCE IS CONTRARY TO THIS OBLIGATION
OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS MUST WORK TOGETHER
DECISIVELY TO INSURE THAT THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW AND MORALITY ARE UPHELD. FAILURE TO DO SO ONLY
INCREASES THE VULNERABILITY OF EACH INDIVIDUAL NATION
TO THE SCOURGE OF SENSELESS AND MISGUIDED VIOLENCE.

END TEXT

3. AS SOON AS OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MADE OF DEPORTATION
BSO TERRORISTS EMBASSY WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.

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